

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
June 19, 2013

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Excused: Keane

Staff: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Finance Cherie Trahan

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mary Hirsch, Courtyard Lane, expressed her disappointment with the results of the referendum and asked the Council to maintain as much funding as possible for education.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked that the entire amount of added revenue be given to the tax payers so there is no increase in the tax rate.

Steve Kegler, Eastwood Road, asked the Council to follow the will of the voters and keep or further reduce the original budget.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, stated that although he was disappointed with the results of the referendum he feels that the Council should follow the vote and cut the budget by a small amount that would not erode services or the education system.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked the Council to pay attention to what the voters said.

Mike Sikoski, Windham, asked that the Council listen to the people.

III. BUSINESS

1. Budget Referendum Results

The Town Manager identified the referendum results which were distributed as part of the handout.

Mr. Paulhus noted the questions on the ballot are as permitted by Connecticut General Statutes and the Mansfield Town Charter.

2. Fiscal Year 2013/14

Mayor Paterson commented staff was asked to prepare the distributed information for Council consideration. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance reviewed two options, noting neither of them includes any of the recommended initiatives previously offered.

Mr. Shapiro moved to adopt the expenditure plan identified as Option1 and set forth on Page 2 of the handout. This option would set the General Government budget at \$15,203,170, the Mansfield Board of Education Budget at \$20,688,160, the Capital Improvement Budget at \$2,285,290 and the Capital Nonrecurring Fund at \$1,834,300. To meet these amounts the General Government Operation would be reduced by \$25,000, the General Fund transfer to CNR for Capital would be increased by \$333,000, the CNR Fund Transfer to Capital would be increased by \$639,440 and the Board of Education Budget would be reduced by \$100,000.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Schaefer.

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Mr. Shapiro noted the motion shows respect for those who petitioned and those who voted in the referendum. Mr. Shapiro also spoke to the Council's bipartisan decision in February not to form a Charter Review Committee.

Mr. Paulhus moved to amend the budget and to reduce the Board of Education funding by an additional \$100,000. Mr. Freudmann seconded the motion.

The motion to amend the budget failed with all opposed except Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Freudmann who voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Freudmann moved the Mansfield School Budget be \$20,117,362. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paulhus.

Mr. Freudmann noted this is a 2.3% reduction below the current year's budget and would not affect the Minimum Budget Requirement for school spending.

The motion failed with all opposed except Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Freudmann who voted in the affirmative.

The motion as originally presented passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Freudmann who voted against the motion.

3. Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Mill Rate

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Tax Rate for the Town of Mansfield for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 be set at 27.95 mills, and the Collector of Revenue be authorized and directed to prepare and mail to each taxpayer tax bills in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and that such taxes shall be due and payable July 1, 2013 and January 1, 2014.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Paulhus and Mr. Freudmann who voted against the motion.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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